



City of Seattle

Michael Patrick McGinn, Mayor

Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Julie Nelson, Director

April 5, 2011

TO: Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Chair
Energy, Technology and Civil Rights Committee

FROM: Julie Nelson, Director, Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Abigail Echo-Hawk, Co-Chair, Seattle Women's Commission
Jamila Johnson, Co-Chair, Seattle Women's Commission

SUBJECT: **Presentation 4/20/11 of Seattle Women's Commission 2011 Work Plan**

Thank you for scheduling time for the Seattle Women's Commission with your committee on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 to review SWC's 2011 Work Plan.

The 2011 work plan focuses on the following priority areas:

Violence prevention:

SWC will address domestic violence in Seattle through the following strategies:

- Ensure that domestic violence remains a priority for City government.
- Advocate for domestic violence awareness training for Seattle police officers, focusing on SPD's responses to domestic violence calls; advocate for a domestic violence mentorship program for new officers.
- Advocate barring tenant screening companies from providing landlords with information on domestic violence protection orders filed by prospective tenants.

SWC will advocate for resources and policy changes to help victims of prostitution and dating violence via the following strategies:

- Continue to monitor initial success indicators of the "Bridge" residential recovery program for prostituted youth and advocate for funding beyond the two-year pilot project.
- Promote education of sexual exploitation / youth prostitution to Seattle educators and parents; research Seattle School District's violence prevention curriculum and advocate for inclusion of teen dating violence and prostituted youth education for middle and high school students; advocate for the Youth and Families Initiative to include a focus on youth prostitution.

Economic opportunities

SWC will advocate for greater economic opportunities and equity for women and families with the following strategies:

- Together with community partners, urge City Council to pass legislation that mandates paid sick leave for employees in all companies and businesses operating in Seattle.
- Make recommendations to City Council, Mayor and City departments to ensure that "green job" opportunities and worker retraining programs benefit working women.

- Inform City leaders of the effects of local, county and state budget and service cuts on women and families (including homeless women) in Seattle.
- Develop stronger connections to Seattle's homeless community and service providers and make policy recommendations to address homelessness among women in Seattle.

Health improvements

Through advocacy and partnerships, SWC will improve women's access to health care information and facilities via the following strategies:

- Advocate for City funding to support health programs for homeless women in Seattle, and inform City Council and the Mayor regarding health issues that homeless women face.
- Partner with breastfeeding/health advocacy organizations to raise local awareness of the new federal mandate to allow breaks for women to breastfeed and employer requirements to provide a non-restroom location for women to expel breast milk.
- Help publicize findings of Seattle Foundation Report that outlines barriers to health access for marginalized communities.

We look forward to meeting with you on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 to discuss our 2011 work plan. A full version of the plan is attached. For more information prior to our meeting, please contact Marta Idowu at 206-684-4540 or marta.idowu@seattle.gov.